# Groppi Joins Protest, Asks Pardon for Priest

Several dozen persons representing groups ranging from the Meatcutters Support Committee to members of the Wisconsin Assassination Information Bureau demonstrated in front of the Pfister Hotel Monday during President Ford's visit here.

No arrests or incidents were reported during the several demonstrations while Ford was attending the White House Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs.

Included in two of the demonstrations was Father James Groppi, the former Milwaukee civil rights leader who now works in Racine.

The priest carried a placard asking that Father Nicholas J. Riddell be freed from imprisonment. Riddell was imprisoned after being convicted on a charge involving the burning of draft records in Chicago in 1969.

"If Ford can give (former President Richard M.) Nixon a pardon . . . he should be willing to do it for Riddell," Groppi said.

Other demonstrators in the group carried signs criticizing the Warren Commission, of which Ford was a member, and its investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Groppi and the group with him protested in front of the hotel at midafternoon and again about 5 p.m., expecting Ford to leave the hotel.

At an earlier protest, about 100 persons carried signs and handed out pamphlets along E. Wisconsin Ave. at the hotel.

The group included members of the Peoples Bicentennial Commission, The Revolutionary Union, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the Meatcutters Support Committee and the Workers World.

Among the posters and banners used by the demonstrators were ones saying, "We demand jobs, or income," "We won't fight the rich man's war" and "Jobs at home, not wars abroad," among other things.

Security precautions at the Federal Building, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., across the street from the Pfister Hotel, were tight Monday.

Entrance to the building could be made only through the front door where a guard inspected the contents of all briefcases and purses.